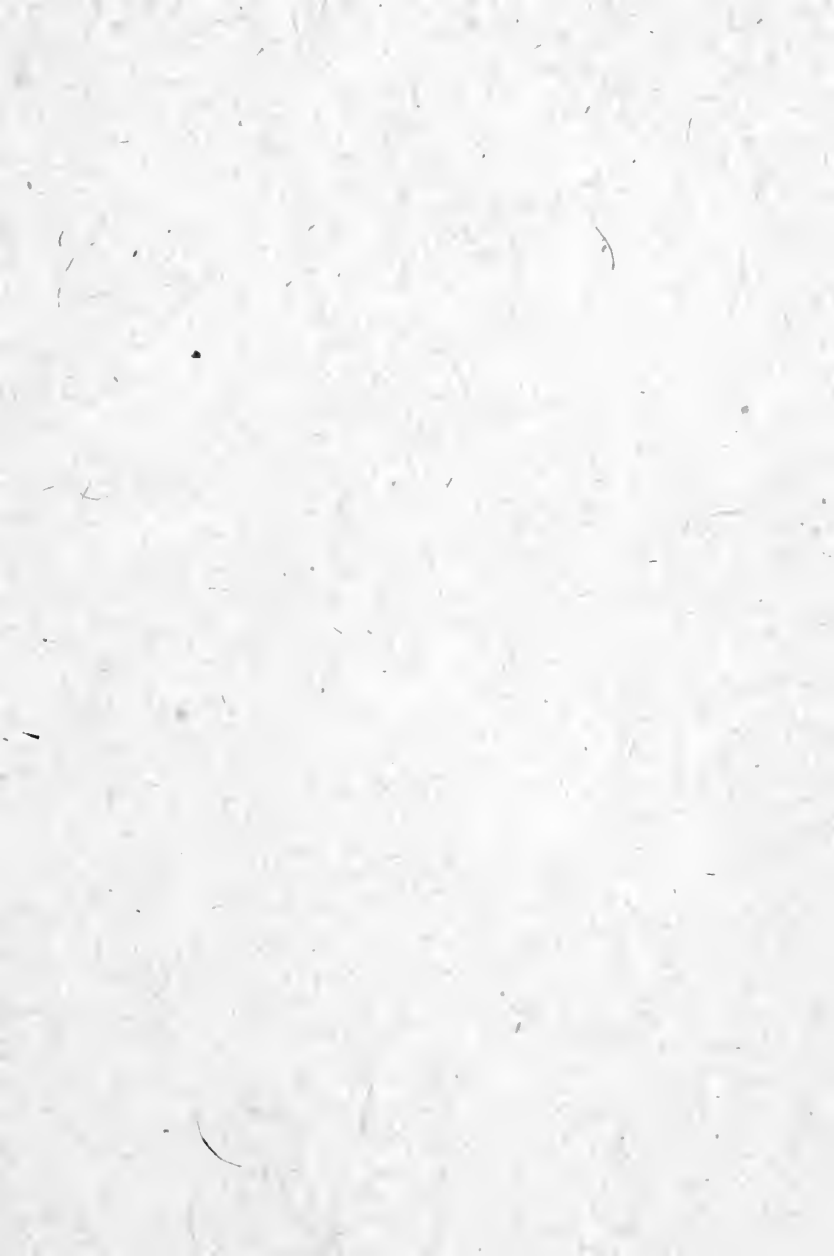


UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH



Dar.
E33. 79
B942
1828

Darlington Memorial Library



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
University of Pittsburgh Library System

NARRATIVE
OF THE
LIFE AND ADVENTURES
OF
MATTHEW BUNN,
(OF PROVIDENCE, R. I.)
IN AN EXPEDITION AGAINST
THE
North-Western Indians,
IN THE YEARS 1791, 2, 3, 4 & 5.



[7TH EDITION, REVISED—4000 COPIES.]

BATAVIA:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR, BY ADAMS AND THORP.

.....

1828.

THE Author of the following pages will make but a very short apology for re-publishing the following history of his adventures. To inform the public of the barbarity and inhumanity of the red and white Savages, and amuse the reading part of community, were amongst the reasons for its publication.

The author will not withhold from a generous public, as a further reason, that he hopes some pecuniary aid towards the support of a numerous family, from the sale of it. The hardships and sufferings to which he has been subjected, having broken down his once vigorous constitution.

THE AUTHOR.

NARRATIVE, &c.

MY HONORED FATHER lived in Brookfield, Massachusetts, and engaged in the American army, in the first year of the Revolutionary war, at Roxbury, and died the same year, 1779.

Being about the age of nineteen years, I enlisted under Ensign JOHN TILLINGHAST, of Providence, for an expedition against the Indians, in the year 1791. When the period arrived when I must quit my home, orders were received for a part of the soldiers, viz. twenty-eight in all, to embark on board a vessel destined to convey us towards the western country, in which we went as far as New-Brunswick, under the command of Lieut. Shearman. On our passage to New-Brunswick, we had bad weather, though we arrived there in ten days; we remained there about five days, and then being equipped with our guns and accoutrements, we marched towards Pittsburgh. The weather was exceeding hot, which made our journey very tedious. We arrived at Pittsburgh sometime in August, where Lieut. Shearman resigned and went home, and Ensign Balch, of Boston, took the command of the detachment, to headquarters. We remained there about three weeks, when we received orders to go down the Ohio River. The boats we went down in, were of two inch plank, of white oak; the length of them was about forty feet, and about sixteen wide, and they rowed with four oars, and three men at each oar; and over the top of each boat there was a roof like the roof of a building, for a defence against the Indians firing from

the shore; though one night we received several shots from them, but there was no man hurt; and so we continued our route night and day, until we arrived at Fort Washington where we joined the main army, which consisted of about two thousand men; and we remained there about two weeks. Then we received orders to march for the Miamis, about twenty-five miles, and there made another halt, and built a fort, which is called Fort Hamilton, and the main army repaired to said fort: but I was ordered another way on command; first going twenty miles down the Ohio River, and then entered into another small river called Big Miami, that leads to Fort Hamilton. From thence we advanced about forty miles farther; this command was under Ensign Cobb, of Taunton, and Sergeant Holley, of Rhode-Island, and consisted of a corporal and twenty-four privates, which went to guard the boat load of provisions by water. This boat drew about eighteen inches water, but the river being lower than we were aware of, we were obliged to draw the boat by main strength, in places of fifty and an hundred yards at a time, in eight or ten inches of water, which caused us to be eight days on that passage. On the fifth day at night, we encamped on the banks of the river, all except the boatmen, who said they would sleep under the banks of the river, by the boats, which they did. We kept the guard on the bank of said river for fear of the Indians; and just at day light one of the guard looked down the banks and cried out, there are Indians! He had no sooner spoke than the Indians fired at the boatmen under the bank of the river; and as the men rose up there was a ball struck the bushes about six inches above their heads; but fortunately there was no man hurt. We were all immediately alarmed. A small party went in pursuit of them, and got sight of the Indians who were on horses, and fired at them; on our firing at them they dropped their packs, and some skins, and several trifling things, which they had stole from the inhabitants the night before, which

we got; one the balls struck an Indian on his rump, but his stooping forward on his horse prevented his being much hurt, but cut his blanket from his rump to his shoulders; for, after I was taken by the Indians, I found out that my master was there at that time, though I never dared to let him know that I was in that party; but he often told me how nigh one the Indians came being shot. The horses they had stolen out of Judge Simmon's stable, about twelve miles below Fort Washington, and they were pursued so close, and our firing upon them gave them such a fright, that they went several miles back on the same way they came, which gave the party a chance to come up with them, which they did, and pursued them so close through the swamp, that the inhabitants got their horses again; but the Indians made their escape and went off.

We moved on our way with our boats, but the water being so low, we made a very poor hand of getting along with it, though we went about nine miles that day; and at night we encamped upon as clear a place as we could find; for fear of the Indians coming upon us; and there was a guard of a sergeant, corporal, and nine privates, and two sentinels stood at some distance from the camp, to keep watch that no Indians came upon us unknown. But about ten o'clock in the evening, some Indians came creeping up to the fire, but the sentinels fired upon them, which alarmed the whole party; we immediately brought water from the river and put out the fire, and every man took to a tree, and stood in that situation till morning. The Indians kept creeping round, and we exchanged several shots with them that night; but it being very dark there was no man hurt; and when it was day light, we went into our boats, and moved on our way, but we had not gone more than half a mile, when looking back we saw three Indians upon the shore where we had encamped; being very much fatigued, we kept on our way and took no notice of them; and on that day about three o'clock in the af-

ternoon, we arrived at a small garrison, called *Dunlap's Station*, which was about sixteen miles from the place of our destination, but we were obliged to leave our boat, by reason of the lowness of the water.

We remained there about two days, then we went through the bushes about ten miles, and came to the army, and there we remained until Fort Hamilton was finished, and then we received orders to march for the Maumee towns, leaving about forty men to keep the garrison. The road we went, we had to cut and clear as we travelled, day by day, which made our journey very tedious, for we could go but about seven miles a day. We went on our march until we had got about forty-five miles, and then we built another fort, called Fort Jefferson; and after we had been building said fort about three days, I happened to be on the outside picket guard at night. The next morning there were three of the guard and myself, not having any duty to do, obtained liberty of our officers to go half a mile distance a hunting, being very scant of provisions; and after we had passed the sentinels we parted, and agreed to take a small circle and then to meet upon a plain, and I went to the right hand, and coming round a swamp, in a blind foot path, a little distance from the plain, looking out for game, not thinking of any danger, on coming into a thicket of brush, there rose up three Indians, which you may think not a little surprised me; I looked this way and that way, for a place to run, but found it impracticable, for there were Indians on every side, with their tomahawks over my head, so I saw that I might as well give up, as to make any resistance, dropping my firelock, and putting out my hand to shake with them, they shook hands with me, and bid me make haste, and then they took me through a swamp upon a dry ridge, and sat down for about an hour, and then went on again, and travelled until about twelve o'clock, when one of them gave a most hideous halloo, which made the woods ring again; and one the Indians told me, bye and bye, I would see

plenty of Indians, and in about half an hour one of them gave another halloo, and a quarter of a mile forward, it seemed as though the woods were alive with Indians, and directly there came about twenty of them running to meet us, some with knives, and some with tomahawks, and painted so that they looked more like so many evil spirits than any thing else. I thought then my life was short, but they all came and shook hands with me except three or four of them, who looked very surly at me, and two of them took hold of me, and led me into a miry swamp, and came upon a little dry knoll in the middle of the swamp, where they had had a fire about six days watching the army; but no sooner had I got to the fire than one took off my hat, another my coat, and another my waistcoat, another my shoes, and one stripped me of my shirt, and gave me an old one in lieu of it which was very dirty; they then brought me an old Indian who could talk the English language, correctly, and began to examine me to know what condition the army was in. I told them as good a story as I could. I saw they were upon the catch, and I made as few words answer as possible. After they had examined me as much as they thought proper, one of them went and brought me some roasted venison, and a piece of bear meat; and after I had eaten as much as I wanted, though I had not much appetite to eat, they asked me if I could run fast; I told them I could not; they then told me I must run or die immediately. Then they packed up their things and set out towards the Maumee town.

When they first set out from the camp, they spread themselves every way, so that no man could know which way they went, and after they had gone about one mile that way, they came together again; and after they came together again the second time, they gave me a pack of meat and some skins, about the weight of a bushel of corn; and then one went forward, and they sent me next, and the rest of them followed after, hurrying me on, keeping me on a trot

all the afternoon, until just night, when one of them told me to run. I told him I could not run, for I was very weary; I had no sooner spoke than one of them struck me on the back of my head with the breech of his gun, which knocked me down to the ground, but I soon recovered and got up again; then I saw that I must run, though hardly able to walk; and we went on in this way until dusk of the evening. Then one of them took me and led me about half a mile from the swamp, and the rest went with him, and went to making a fire; but my master took me and sat down about two rods from the fire, and asked me how I should like to be tied; I told him that I should not like to be tied at all, but he said I must be tied, or may be I should run away; then he took a parcel of cords, and tied me: he first tied my elbows behind me, and my hands together, forward, and then drew a moccasin over each hand, and tied them together, down to the waistband of my breeches, and then laid me on my back, and tied a cord round my neck, and another round my legs, and tied them fast to a tree, and the Indians lay across the cords. I lay in this condition until morning, and it may well be thought that I underwent a great deal that night, for I was tied in such a manner that I could not stir hand or foot; neither had I any thing to cover me but the heavens, for they never gave me so much as a blanket to put over me, though it snowed and rained; and in the morning when they untied me, I was so stiff with the cold, I could not stand, but I rolled over the ground and rubbed myself awhile, and set by the fire, till I got so that I could go; then making themselves ready moved on their way to town again. When they had travelled about three or four miles, they made a halt for about half an hour, when one of them came and painted me black, and painted themselves black likewise; but not knowing the meaning of being painted in such a manner, I thought it was done for their own diversion. But they immediately went on their way until about ten o'clock in the forenoon, then making

another stand, which had like to have been my last, they first spotted the trees round for some distance, and then made blacking of powder and marked the trees in all kinds of disfigured creatures. They came round and began to make a speech, and the Indian that painted me told me to get up. Now my master had gone in pursuit of a deer, and was not with the rest of the company. In the mean time while they were cutting their capers over me, my master came up and looked angry at them, and in a great rage, and made a long speech to them, which seemed to displease many of them, but they soon took up their packs and were for marching on. Now I was to have been tomahawked here, but I knew nothing of it until I was brought to the Maumee town; and my master coming up at that time was the means of saving my life. But we had not gone far from this place, when the Indian that was the means of saving my life, told me to wash off the black that was on my face, which he said was no good, which I immediately did, and then he painted my face red, which was a token that I was not to die. We went on the remainder of the day, and at night when we encamped, they bound me as they did before, which I thought was very hard usage, to travel all day, and at night to be bound in such a manner. But on the third day, about four o'clock, we arrived at the Maumee town; but when we had got within about two miles of said town, the Indians made a halt, and my master painted my face one half red and the other part black, and tied a large rope round my neck, which hung by my waist; then he took my pack from me, and one of them that could speak English told me that bye and bye we should come into town; and he further said, perhaps when you get into town some saucy boys will come out and strike you, and if they do, you will see a long house, and sit down and they will strike you no more, which I found to be true; for when we had got within about half a mile of the town one of them gave a loud halloo, and it seemed as

though the woods were alive with Indians for a mile round ; and immediately the savages came running to meet us, as thick as the squirrels in the woods, which I thought the most frightful sight I had ever beheld ; but directly we came into the town, and as we passed the first camp, there came out a young warrior and struck me on the back of my neck, and I fell to the ground ; and when I recovered on my knees, another gave me a kick, and kicked me on my face ; and as soon as I got up another caught me by the hand, and said run, run, you devil ! and as I run he struck me over the face and eyes ; and when I had got within an hundred yards of the long house, which the Indian told me of, the path on both sides was paraded with Indians, as many as could stand ; and as I run through, every one of them gave me a blow, some with their hand, and some with a club, and others a kick with the foot, but every one would have a blow at me ; so that when I got to the house, my face was as bloody as though I had dipped my head in blood, besides other bruises all over my body. Just as I got to the door, and was going in, one of them hit me on the side of my head, and sent me past the corner of the house ; but I scrambled up again and went into the house, and as soon as I entered the door I met an old grey headed chief, and shook hands with him, but I was so grieved with such usage, that I could not refrain from shedding tears ; which I think almost every one would have done, but he said, you must not cry, for if you do, the Indians will kill you ; but I sat down, and immediately they brought a white man to examine me, which he did very closely, concerning the army, and what situation they were in, though I made my story as short as possible. And then they took him out and brought in another, to see whether I told a true story or not, and after they had re-examined me as much as they pleased, they went and brought me some of their bread, made of pounded corn, and some homminy ; and after I had eaten, they brought me a little pris-

ener boy, that had been taken about two years before, on the river called Monongahela, though he delighted more in the ways of the savages than in the ways of Christians; he used me worse than any of the Indians, for he would tell me to do this, that, and the other, and if I did not do it, or made any resistance, the Indians would threaten to kill me, and he would kick and cuff me about in such a manner, that I hardly dared to say my soul was my own, although I daily underwent the greatest cruelty. Often times there would Indian strangers come to visit their tawny brethren, and the first salute they would give, generally, was to knock me down, and frequently, to repeat their blows; and if I made any resistance, or shewed resentment, before or after I got up, those savage-like brutes would repeat the same treatment with terrible additions. I was forced to submit in silence to that inhuman and barbarous treatment for the space of nearly a week.

It being about the time the Indians were gathering to meet the American Army for battle, there was a number of Strangers in the vicinity, and my master told me they would kill me; and he took me from the long council house to his wife's camp, although she was gone to the hunting ground (about fifty miles distant) to winter; and the savages were gathered together in this town for a general rendezvous, and remained here, in number fifteen hundred, or thereabouts, for one week, and then they all marched to meet Gen. St. Clair's army; and after those Indians were gone, my master's son took me to their hunting ground, where his mother and several young Indians were; I had more of a dog's life than that of a Christian, for they would not allow me to sleep in the camp with them; and if I made a hut by myself, the Indian boys would pull it away, as if it was only to worry and fatigue me, and if they thought I was offended at it, they did it with seemingly more pleasure, and I was obliged to submit, and through the protection of Divine Providence I was enabled to support it.

In the beginning of winter, these savages lived only four or five days in a place, and would move eight or ten miles further at each time, and kept in continual motion until the snow was some depth; and by that time they had got one hundred and fifty miles from the town; at that time I had to build huts for five families, to cut wood and carry it some distance, because they would not burn any but dry. I had a very short allowance of provisions, and being almost naked for the want of clothes, let the weather be wet or dry, hot or cold, I was kept at hard work of some kind or other, such as dressing deer skins, or hunting raccoons; and with savage shouts they would bid me exert myself or I should die. But the fatigues day and night were not all that I suffered, for the Indian boys, when I was asleep, used frequently to put live coals at my feet, to divert themselves at seeing me start; and as I had no clothes to myself, I often lay near the fire; one night a boy drove me farther from it but I told them that I would not lay back any farther, unless they would give me some covering, but their cruelty was further exerted in not giving me any thing to eat for two days afterwards; and sometimes I would get meat and lay it up in the camp, but the boys would frequently come in and give it to the dogs, on purpose to insult me, and put me to trouble; one day there came only one into the camp where I slept, and took my meat and gave it to the dog, looking me in the face and laughing; this offended me so much, that I thought I might as well be tomahawked as to live in torment and vexation, and immediately, I caught up a stick and struck him over the head, which knocked him down and almost stunned him; I was then certain there was no possibility of saving my life, for he got up very quick and went to my master, and told him of the affair, and it proved well for me that he made additions to the story. I went to a camp that belonged to an Indian trader, and told him what had happened, and desired him to go and plead me off from being killed; but I had

hardly told my story, before I saw my master coming with his tomahawk in his hand, who seemed in a great rage, but the man went and met him, and desired him to hear the other story, before he went any further, which he complied with, and after he had heard the truth of the whole matter, and how he was always tormenting and fatiguing me, turned back and went his way, and never said any thing to me of the affair afterwards. Soon after this affair happened, my master went a hunting for several days, and when he came home, brought several strangers with him, who encamped but a small distance from us, and at night my master told me to cut some wood for them; I replied that I was very hungry, as I had eat nothing that day, and he saw that I did not move so quick as I ought to have done, he called his son, and told him to bring his war club; at my hearing this, I caught hold of my leggins and moccasins to put them on, but he came in a great rage and violence, with a war club in his hand, and struck at me with great force, and would have killed me, but as I saw the blow coming, I knocked off the back part of the cabin and escaped, otherwise I should have had my brains scattered through the camp; but I immediately got my tomahawk, and went about three hundred yards from the camp, and cut wood enough to burn that night; and having nothing on my feet or legs, the crust of the snow being almost hard enough to bear me up, but breaking through nearly every step, being knee deep.— Thus when I had done that small task, (as they called it) my feet and legs looked as if they had been cut and hacked with sickles and crosscut saws; the blood pressing forth from each ghastly wound, from my knees to my toes; and when the savage-like brutes saw it, they laughed, and said I had got a beautiful pair of striped leggins on, which would make me rest well. &c.

They used to send me a hunting oftentimes with the Indian boys, and sometimes we would be gone three or four days at a time; at night, after I had

made a fire for them, they would make me build another for myself; and one time in particular, that we were out, I supposed that we were within forty miles of an American fort, and in the morning I came to the fire as they lay asleep, and took their tomahawks and almost determined to kill them both, and make my escape to the American fort; but I took the second thought that the woods were full of savages, and if they should come across my track, and follow me, they would have ten chances to catch me where I had one to get clear of them; and thought I should have some opportunity of getting away without running so great a risk; and so concluded it was best to be as patient as I could, although I had the tomahawk up several times to drop it into their heads; but I forebore striking.

Not long after that, as one of the Indian boys was sitting one day in the camp with me alone, he on one side of the fire and I on the other, and having his bow in his hand, and a handfull of wooden arrows, he would shoot them at me, and after many trials he shot one into my wrist, which bent the point against the bone, I caught hold of a stick, about three inches thick, and threw at him, and hit him on the side of the head, which knocked him almost senseless; but it happened to be when my master was gone, and he did not get home under three weeks after, and by that time it had all died away; for I never heard any thing more about it; although, if my master had been at home, there would not have been any such thing as saving my life; for I was forced to keep out of the way of the squaws for two days, or they would have tomahawked me themselves.

By this time of the year corn grew very scarce, and the meat was very poor, and but little of it for my share; sometimes they would kill a raccoon, and my part of it would be the head without any thing to eat with it; that was my allowance for a day, and very often for two or three days, had nothing at all but what nuts I could find in the woods, and some other

trifles. About the middle of March, as some of the copper-headed boys were hunting, they found a large black snake, that was drawn out of the water by a mink, and brought it to the camp, roasted it with a squirrel, broke it up fine, and gave it to me to eat; but as soon as I found out what it was, I hove it down by the fire side, and when my mistress perceived that, she told me to eat it, or I should not have any thing, and they never offered me any thing more for three days. About that time there were several savages going upon a scout towards the American frontier, my master and all that belonged with our family, went with that party, and left me with my mistress; but there were several other camps, and some remaining Indians in the neighborhood, who had orders to chastise me, if they saw me saucy to my mistress. We remained in that place about a week, and some American Indians came within ten miles of us and killed two or three families of the Delawares, which put our tribe in such a fright, that they fled to their towns, which were about one hundred and fifty miles, but the way we went it was two hundred miles, to keep out of sight of some hostile savages. The way being very bad that we went, our journey lasted three weeks, and all that time my mistress never gave me a spoonfull of any thing to eat, only what I could get in the woods, such as ground nuts, and some other nuts, and having a pack to carry, weighing sixty or seventy pounds. (that being my daily task,) and frequently could get nothing to eat for two or three days. Sometimes I would get a peck of ground nuts and my mistress would take them all from me. One day I borrowed a gun of an Indian and went a hunting, to kill something to eat, and by chance I found eight large black snakes sunning themselves: I killed and strung them on a stick, and carried them to the camp. My mistress looking out, imagined I had some black squirrels, I came into camp and threw down the snakes at the old squaw's feet, which enraged her so much, she threw a tomahawk at me; the

next thing that came to hand was a brand of fire, on which I was obliged to leave the camp, and did not return that day; but when the other savages saw her that knew of her giving me a roasted snake to eat, some days before, it pleased them very much. because they said I served her tit for tat, or paid the old score; in the evening she called for me, and asked what I brought those snakes for, I made reply that they were to pay her for the one she gave me to eat. She, believing that I was even with her, let it drop, and it soon blew over, though I fared none the worse for provisions afterwards. When we arrived at the Maumee town, I resolved to make my escape from the savages. We arrived at the town about the middle of the afternoon; and after I had made a camp for my mistress, we not encamping on the side of the river that the town was, I took a walk down the river, to see if I could find a canoe to make my escape in, which I did, lying under the bank of the river; and in the edge of the evening, about nine o'clock, after the old squaw had got asleep, I got up and crept away from the camp, and then had to go one quarter of a mile through thick bushes to the river; it was exceedingly dark, and when I came there the canoe was gone. I was obliged to make all the speed possible, to get back to the camp, for fear they would miss me, and I had but just got to the fire, and laid down, before my mistress called to me to make a fire. On the next morning there came a prisoner by the name of Morris Doyle, from over the river, and I went out to work and asked him if he did not mean to try to make his escape from the savages? He said he did not know the woods, but if he could get any one to set off with him he would go. I told him that I was resolved to go that night, and he said, if we could get together he would go with me, and I asked him how we should get together: he said his master had a very nice canoe, and oftentimes the Indians would come, after they were gone to bed, to come over the river, and he had to get up and fetch them a-

cross, and he said I must come down when I thought they were all asleep, and give an Indian halloo, and he would get up and come over the river with the canoe, and we would make the best of our way down the river, night and day, until we arrived at some Christian settlement; but it happened in my favor—my mistress went over the river that day, to see her daughter, and when she came back, she said I must go over the river that night, and stay there, to clear the land for corn. This pleased me very well, for I should have a much better chance to escape; and after going over the river where they had sent me to work, I staid there until about sunset, and then asked liberty of the Indian to go and see Morris Doyle;—said I had not seen him for a great while, and he told to go, so I went to his camp, which was about a mile; when I came there he had just got over the river from work; I told him that he might make ready for a start that night, for the sooner we went the better we could make our escape; for my master was gone out to war, and all the Indians that belonged to that family, and I did not think the other savages would follow us so close as my master; so we agreed to go that night, and as soon as it was dark I went out, as if going home, and lay in the brush until the savages were all asleep, and then I came in, very still, and awoke him, and we went down to the River where the canoe was and when we came there, we found no paddles in the canoe, and very poor poles, and the water was six or seven feet deep, and when we had gone down the river about half a mile, the Indian camps being very thick upon the banks of the river, they heard us going down, though it was so dark they could not see us, but there came an Indian down to the bank of the river, and called out three or four times, and asked who was there—but we squatted down in our canoe, and let the current carry us down past them. We had not gone more than three miles before we were hailed again by the savages; but we set down in the canoe until we drifted past the camp, and then

we went about four miles and there came an Indian out of his camp, and came down to the river with a brand of fire in his hand, and spoke in his own language, and asked who was there; but we made no answer, but went on as fast as we could; we went on for an hour and a half, and we saw some person going down by the side of us with a brand of fire in his hand; I then told Doyle that it was not safe for us to go any further in a canoe, for the Indian was going down to head us, we run our canoe ashore, and took to the land, and I went forward expecting that he was close behind me until I had got as much as a mile, then made a halt, and called him, but could hear nothing of him; it would not do for me to tarry long, for I heard the canoes after us. I went that night with all the speed it was possible to make, although it was very slow, for it was exceeding dark, and about midnight it began to rain; some part of the way I went on the bank of the river, and the other part took to the woods, thick and thin, and went through swamps and thickets; sometimes I would run, and very often was brought up with my legs against an old log, which would pitch me headforemost into the brush for nearly a rod. One time as I was running, I came to a gutter that run through from a pond, and the bank being almost straight down about twelve feet deep, and it being so dark that I did not perceive it, and taking one long step from top to bottom came headforemost into it, in about four feet of water! but notwithstanding, I made a shift to force my way thro'. Any one must suppose that I was not a very little frightened at that misstep; but when I came to the bank on the other side, it being something steep, was very much troubled to get up, and fell back a number of times, but by good luck at last got out: I travelled until daylight, and then went three miles back from the river into the woods, and came to a thick swamp, cropt into a hollow log, and lay there until evening, and then set out on my nocturnal route; but faring very hard, and my being much bewildered, did not

know which way to steer, but travelling about two hours, and not finding the river, it was certain I was lost. I then turned another course, and had not gone more than a mile before I came to a footpath; and then did not know which way to go, but happened to take the wrong way, and had not gone far before I met an Indian in the path. I knew that running would not save me, and thought, perhaps, if I could keep close by him, and say nothing, I might not be mistrusted; but on hearing him, he asked where I was going? I told him that I was hunting after a horse and had got lost. He asked me what my master's name was? I told him I did not know, but he was a Delaware. He then asked me if I thought I could find my camp alone; my reply was, I expected that this path would lead me to some camp that I knew. He said there was a camp close by us. Then I told him I would go there with him, and perhaps should know the way home from there. He said he was going there. Then I thought my escape was at an end, as I could not do less than to go with him, so I followed him to the camp, and when we came there he asked me if I knew the camp? I replied no, but would stay there until the next morning, and then would find the way home.

All this this time he did not mistrust my running away, from the Indians, but when we came into the camp, he told them that I was lost, and wanted to sleep there that night, so that I might find the way home in the morning. But in the mean time, in came the infamous George Girty, the younger, who knew me, and said that I had ran away from the Indians, for they had been down to his camp that day after me. When he first came in, he looked at me, and spoke in the Indian language, and asked them how I came there. They made answer that I was lost; but Girty said that I was a liar, for there were two that run away from the Indians, and that I was one of them; and he said the Indians were after us, and had left word with him to take me up if he could find me.

Then Girty asked me if I did not run away from the Indians; I told him I did not; he said he believed that I told a lie; they directly began to converse together, to know what they should do with me. Girty said that he would take me home with him, and the next day take me back to my master. All that while I sat very well composed, as if I could not understand their language, although I knew if I could get over the river, I should stand a very good chance to make my escape once more. The next day we set off to his camp, which was about six miles. He took good care that I should not go behind, for he put me forward, following on with a tomahawk in one hand, and his rifle in the other; and we went in that condition until we arrived at the river, and he called for a canoe and we went across, and soon came to his camp. But when he came there, his father, and James Girty, his brother, knew me, and several other of the Indians, and George Girty asked me where I wished to go; I told him I wanted to go where I could have better fare than I had among the Indians; he asked me if they did not give me enough to eat; I told him, instead of giving me enough to eat, they gave me nothing at all. He asked me if I was hungry; I told him that some victuals would be very kindly accepted; for I had not eat any thing for three weeks but what I could get in the woods; he told me if I would go and cut some wood and make a fire, I should have something to eat. It was then evening, and I cut some wood and made a fire. As I designed to make my escape the first opportunity, I sat by the fire all night, and made two or three attempts to get away, but the dogs would hear me, and make such a barking that the savages would get up to see what the matter was; but early in the morning I heard them whispering together to know what they should do with me. The old squaws and young Girty, said they would carry me back that day to my master again. Hearing this, and not having any chance to make my escape, made me feel quite down

hearted; there was one George Whiteeyes who could understand English, and perceiving that I was somewhat troubled in mind, asked me what the matter was; I told him that I heard them say they would carry me back to my master; I told him I was resolved not to go alive, for I knew they would put me to the torture in the most barbarous manner. He then told them what I said, and they concluded to send word to the Indians that I was there, which they did by sending young Girty unbeknown to me. When he had been gone about half an hour, a little negro boy who belonged to James Girty, asked me if I knew where young Girty had gone; I told him I did not; he said he heard them agree for me to be kept all that day while they could give word to the Indians. When I heard this I went to old Girty, and asked him where young Girty had gone; he said he had gone after a horse that was lost. I was then convinced there was evil determined against me. I told him it lay in his power to help me, and begged he would. He said I had better be content to go back, for he did not think the Indians would hurt me. I told him he could not satisfy me with such stories as that, for he knew better. He said he could not assist me for fear of the Indians, for if they knew he helped me, they would fall aboard of him; but he said I might go to James Girty, his brother, and perhaps he would assist me, which I did; when I came to him, he also told me he could do nothing for me, for fear the Indians would find it out and blame him. I then asked him if I might go over the river to M'Daniel's, who kept a store on the other side, he said I might go and see him, if I would come back again; I told him if he was afraid of my running away he might send his negro boy with me; accordingly he did. As soon as I got over the river I told the boy to stand by the canoe until I ran up to the house, and then I would come back again; but instead of going to the house, I went into the woods about a mile, and crept under an old log, and lay there from

sunrise until dark ; then went to Mr. M'Daniels and told him my condition, and begged his assistance ; but he said it was out of his power to help me ; that if I had been there about two hours sooner I might have had my passage into Detroit, for he had sent two pettiaugers of packs to that place ; that he feared the Indians, and could not assist me. I asked him if he could help me to some provisions ; he said he had none except what he bought of the Indians, and was then quite destitute. Then I began to be almost discouraged for fear of being taken ; but by chance there was a prisoner who lived near by, being there, asked me if I had not made my escape from the Indians. I told him I had ; he told me it was not safe for me to be there, for the Indians were hunting after me but a little while before ; he advised me to go down the river that night, gave me a paddle, and shewed me a large pettiauger that I could go across the river to the side that the village was, and said there I would find a small canoe, and told me to make my escape down the river ; but when I got across, and went past the town, I could find no canoe except a birch one, and not being acquainted with them I made out but poorly ; the wind blew very fresh up the river so that it took me quite on the other side, hard by an Indian camp on the top of the bank, and the dogs made such a barking that the Indians came out, but it was so dark they could not discover me. As soon as they were still I pushed over to the other side of the river, let my canoe drift, and made the best of my way by land. I then had about two miles to travel to get past the Indians ; and to add to my sorrow, through thickets and over hedge fences, until I was almost torn to pieces. After I had got about three or four miles past the Indian town, I heard two horse bells, at a distance from the river, went to them, caught one, and took off the cords that his legs were tied together with, made a halter of them, put it on, and was just ready to mount when I heard the Indians a little distance forward,

which obliged me to leave the horse standing, and make the best of my way through swamps and pond-holes. About twelve o'clock that night I came into a small foot path, where I saw an Indian lying asleep by the side of the road. Previous to his lying down he had made him a fire, but it was all out except a small coal which I happened to see, otherwise I should have stepped upon the savage, which gave me a start, but stepping back softly and creeping by him he did not wake. So I went forward that night till break of day. I then went back into the woods about half a mile, lay down and slept until about ten o'clock in the morning, and then thought I would travel a little by day light, and went upon the shore, for the savages were frequently passing and repassing in the road I went in. After travelling about three miles on the shore, I saw a camp over the river, and they discovered me—they gave an Indian whoop, and I gave them another; they hallooed a second time, and I again repeated the same, which made them doubt my being one of them, they came down to the river which was very wide, and the wind blew exceeding hard up the river, so that it drove them up stream some ways from me; for there was a long point made out into the river betwixt me and where they had to go on shore, and as soon as they were past the point, I left the river, and went into the woods about forty rods from the river, and crept into a thick tree top that was lying down, where I hid myself. I had not been there but a few minutes before the savages came by, looking after me, until towards evening, not finding me, they returned back again. I remained in this place until sunset. When I supposed they were all encamped for that day, so there was no danger, I went on my way again, but had not proceeded but a few rods when I was met by three squaws, which gave me a start, supposing there were Indians close by, but as it happened, there were none to be seen. I travelled all that night, sometimes on the run, and then on the walk, sometimes upon the

sandy shore, and then up in the bushes. My moccasins were so worn out that my feet bled, but made the best of my way until about the middle of the night, then came to where there were two large canoes loaded with skins, which belonged to the savages that were encamped at a small distance from the river. I went to the canoes to see if there were any thing to eat, and found a bag full of deer and raccoon's skull bones, for dressing skins; it being very dark, I took them to be bread—got my hands full, but did not try to eat any until I had got some distance from them, but when I did attempt it, found I was deceived, and was much vexed, after having taken so much pains to steal for my life a parcel of bones. I made all speed possible to get away, for fear of the savages, and travelled until about an hour before daylight, when I heard a drum at a great distance off.

I then began to be encouraged, supposing by the intelligence I had received that I was not far from some Christian people. But upon coming down, I found it to be an Indian town, situated upon the other side of the river, all except two or three camps which were covered with flags and stood on the side of the river where I was, and I went to one of them, and seeing nobody except an old squaw and two small children, made bold to go in and warm myself by the fire, for I was very much fatigued and worn out, and chilled through with the cold, for it rained and hailed all night, which made me very uncomfortable, being out in the storm; after sitting down by the fire about half an hour, the old squaw awoke and made some movements, so I made the best of my way out of the camp, without being discovered; in the mean time, it had got to be daylight, and I repaired to the river side. My moccasins being quite worn out, and my feet so sore and bloody, anybody else might easily have taken me on the ground. After going down the river about a mile, I came to a small village of natives, where there was a store kept by a Frenchman; passing by, and turning to go in, the door being part-

ly open, I saw the floor covered with drunken Indians, and hearing one of them say in their language there is a white man, I turned and went round the house, and there found a hogpen, where the hogs had just crept out, and crept in in their place; but had not been there long before the Indians came round the house, looking after me, but not finding me, they went in again. Directly a Frenchman came out of the house, and as soon as I saw him, presented myself to him, and asked him if he could not assist me; he said he could not for fear the Indians would find it out and kill him. Furthermore, he said it was not safe for me to be there, for the Indians would soon be up and likely to see me, and then it would be impossible for me to get clear; but he said I must go ten miles farther and I should come to an Englishman's house where I should be much safer than I was there; moreover, he said I must be very quick in going, for the Indians would be up after me, and it would not be possible for me to get away from them. I immediately went on ten miles, which I was two hours in going, being very faint and tired, and my feet run with blood. The first house I came to was a Mr. M'Cormics. My appearance at this time, may be supposed to be disinal—without clothing—almost starved—my beard and hair long and frightful. When I came to the door and knocked, he bid me come in. and when he saw me in that frightful situation, he was almost at his wits end, and cried out, where the devil did you come from? I told him I came out of an Indian country; he asked me what the devil brought you there? I answered it was my misfortune to get among them; he replied that there was a great many rascals whom he would be glad to have slaves to the Indians all their days. I thought then I might as well have staid among the Indians, as to have risked my life thus far, and be so treated. I then asked him if he knew any white people that lived near by; he said I would find them down the river. I thought to myself it would be far safer for

me to keep round by the lake to Detroit, and not be seen any more, as I could not tell a friend from a foe. When I had gone on about half a mile down the river, walking along very slowly, and thinking to myself how I should get by some Indian towns undiscovered, that were on the way, I met a man by the name of Thomas Smith, an Indian storekeeper; and as soon as he saw me he asked me which way I was travelling; I made answer where I could get quarters, though he knew from my appearance that I had made my escape from the Indians; he next inquired how far I had come; I told him from the Maumee town, which was a hundred and thirty-five miles from the camp. He asked me if I had any provisions? I told him it was the fifth day since I had eat any thing but nuts; he invited me into his house and said he would help me to some, which I received very kindly; for truly he was the first friend I had found on the way. When I went in he gave me some victuals to eat, but I was so faint that a very little served me. I had not been there more than an hour before the savages came in pursuit of me, and began to inquire after me; but Mr. Smith put me up in his chamber, and kept me hid there until his boat came from Detroit, when he put me on board and sent me on my way thither. But on our way we had two or three Indian towns to pass by, and the savages were apprised of my running away, for they had the description of me by the dress I had on, when I came from them; but the boat men gave me other clothes to put on, so that my garb appeared like that of a Frenchman; so I passed by undiscovered, although we lay wind bound in an Indian town for some days.

When I arrived at Detroit, (April 30, 1793,) I flattered myself I was secure from any further insult from the savages; expecting the English garrison would protect poor captives, that fled to them for protection; and that if I was retaken, humanity would plead for me, in case it was called into question, supposing the English people deserved the cha-

racter of being humane." Upon these principles, I took the liberty of walking the streets of that place, seeking for employ, that might enable me to procure some clothing, being almost naked ; but I was very soon convinced that I had placed confidence in a people that were not deserving of it, and that by being too credulous, had imposed on myself. I had been there about three weeks before I could believe my own eyes. Within that term of time I had seen many Indians that frequented that place, and could not but admire how a few days after I was thoroughly convinced, by seeing them bring into the English garrison the scalps of men, women and children, for which the English would give them a large reward, and encourage them to practise their cruelties upon the Americans. They let them have fire arms, ammunition and provisions, and also ardent spirits, to stimulate them to action ; at the idea of which humanity must revolt.

As I was walking the streets in the after part of a day on which some savages had come to town with their scalps and treasure, which had been taken from the Americans, feeling very melancholy, and not observing the Indian faces so critically as I ought to have done, my mind being much enervated by the frequent disappointments which I had met with, I was met by two savages that knew me, and said that I had run away from my master, and therefore took me prisoner, and were immediately going to carry me back to Maumee town. None can conceive the perturbation of mind which I experienced at that unlucky meeting, but those who have been in a similar situation. My pen or imagination would fall infinitely short of a just description ; for the cruel savages, eager to begin their torture, and thirsting for American blood, with their uplifted tomahawks, crying for vengeance, could hardly be restrained from putting a period to my life instantly. I begged of them to spare my life a little while longer, and asked them if they would not ransom me in case I would

procure them the money. They seemed more pacified, and accordingly were persuaded to go with me a small distance, to one Thomas Smith, an Indian trader, whom I was acquainted with (being the person that favored my escape from the Indians, by sending me to Detroit not long before, and whose name will ever be precious to my memory,) and when we came to Mr. Smith, I informed him how my circumstances were, and that unless he would befriend me, I should be miserable, lost, and undone, being threatened with instant death ; but in case the Indians deferred it until they carried me to my master, it would be still worse with me, for then they would scalp and burn me at the stake. He being well acquainted with the Indians, said he doubted not one word of it. I then made the most solemn promise to bind myself a servant to him till I had repaid him for his kindness, provided he would redeem me from these savage brutes. Mr. Smith being now moved with compassion, began to barter with the Indians for my ransom, while I stood trembling for fear of an unfavorable issue. I understood so much of the Indian language as to be able to learn that they held me at a great price, and was ready to sink into the dust for fear Mr. Smith would not give it. At length a bargain was completed, and one hundred and twenty dollars was the price. Mr. Smith paid it, and the Indians gave him a bill of me, and departed. Language is too poor to express the gratitude which I felt towards my kind deliverer, who could have no other motive in my deliverance than the love he cherished in his tender bosom for his fellow men, when suffering. My heart must cease to beat within my breast, before I can forget that worthy gentleman. Again I was freed from immediate death, and a bound servant to the best of masters ; but in a strange country, amongst strangers and only that one friend ; naked and hungry, and a great ransom to pay. All these circumstances considered, it was but a gloomy prospect. A person at ease could not enumerate the ob-

stacles I had to surmount, to regain my liberty.— When life is compared with wealth, the former preponderates; to rate the estimate, none are competent, but those who have undergone the trial; for when men's interest is at stake, and life in no danger, they think the object great; but when life is at stake, it will command the interest to redeem it, which will be given up with all imaginable pleasure. But my case was worse than either, for my life was at stake, and I had no interest to redeem it; and had it not been for my kind benefactor, I had soon been numbered with the dead. After I was liberated, I went directly to work under the direction of Mr. Smith, improving every moment of the time very industriously, earning a little here and a little there, till I was taken sick with the fever and ague, to which the inhabitants of that place are subject, especially new comers. My constitution being almost ruined, from the hardships I endured while an Indian captive, the fever ran exceeding high, and for some time entirely laid me up. My spirits were very low, almost despairing of recovery. Being destitute of clothing, the cold fits which preceded the hot, would almost force me to the fire; and having no person to assist me, nor speak one consoling word, I was almost driven to despair, but in the intermission of my fits, would consider better of it, knowing the obligation I was under to Mr. Smith, and viewing the many difficulties I had encountered and surmounted, was encouraged; and considering likewise, that it was doing injustice to myself and my friend Mr. Smith, to give up. The feelings I had for my kind deliverer wrought a greater effect on my mind than my own case; so with patience and perseverance I conquered my difficulties, and again went to my labor and continued so to do for nearly the space of two years; in which time I had almost earned a sum sufficient to have paid my ransom; and had it not been for an unlucky accident taking place in a very short time should have completed my de-

liverance. But my sufferings were not at an end in so short a space of time, being again involved in trouble and difficulty, not with the Indians, as before, but with British tyrants, that heartless savages without the fear of God could only equal.

About Christmas, I went out to the river Letrench, to clear land for a Mr. Samuel Choat (a hatter by trade) about 80 miles distant from Detroit, and after laboring there about two months and a half, being one day at the raising of a barn for one Henry Boochford, I tarried till evening, and a company of jovial lads got together, some of them Americans, who came there with the idea of taking the oath of allegiance to George the *III.* and by that means be permitted to take up new lands. We all being merry with liquor, began to drink healths. One of my countrymen drank a health to the king, and damnation to Washington, in order to ingratiate himself into the favor of his majesty's subjects, and demonstrate his loyalty to the crown of England, as I supposed. I was moved by the insult, and to retaliate, drank a health to Washington and damnation to the king. Henry Boochford immediately accosted me thus, do you damn the king? Supposing him to be in a merry humor, and not in earnest, I repeated my words. He again said, what! do you damn king George? I replied I did, for what was the king to me? He still insisted on whether I damn'd the king. I thought him too much of a critic, and gave him to understand me so; telling him he busied himself with that which he had no immediate concern with. One word brought on another; being a little exasperated, and feeling as much for my insulted Washington, as he did for his king, I inconsiderately repeated my words, and more by saying that I damn'd the king and all the royal family, and all such fellows as he was, who took their part. By this time our debates were exceedingly warm, and continued so for some time; at length the dispute subsided, and I expected a good night's rest would have settled the matter; but it did not prove

to be the case ; it only lay dormant a few days, not extinct, as I expected ; for not long after, I was visited by a civil officer, with a warrant to apprehend me, which he did, and informed me that I was indicted for high treason. He then carried me to prison, and put irons on my hands and feet, saying that I must lie in that condition till the sitting of the next sessions, then to be tried for high treason, and punished as the law directed in such cases, which was nothing short of death.

At hearing this, a dark gloom pervaded all future prospect of my deliverance. Thus confined in a strong prison in irons, and in that cruel condition to remain till next sessions, which was to sit in about ten weeks, and then to be tried, condemned and executed, was awful, indeed too shocking for human nature to contemplate. I began to wish the Indians had prevented this, which they would have done instantly, had I resisted them when they met me walking in the streets of Detroit. My sufferings were augmented by the fever and ague, which so enfeebled me that I was not able to walk the prison floor without the aid of some of the soldiers, I was almost destitute of clothing, having barely sufficient to cover my body. My lodgings were equally as poor, only one old ragged blanket to wrap round me ; indeed my clothing, lodging and boarding were all of a piece, for one pound of bread and that exceedingly poor, was my daily allowance.

At length the time of my trial came on, and being called to the bar, and questioned respecting the crime alledged against me, I plead not guilty. The court then proceeded in the business, but the charge could not be supported against me, as I had not taken the oath of allegiance to the king, and could not be considered as one of his subjects. Therefore, I was to be banished from that place, instead of being hanged—a happy turn in my favor, (tho't I) expecting to be sent to the United States. But they took care to prevent that ; and to be sure of me (expecting the

American army were coming the ensuing summer to Detroit) sent me down the country, about 350 miles, to Niagara, in order to send me from thence the first good opportunity to Quebec, there to be put on board a man of War. On my arrival at Niagara, I was taken from the vessel and carried before the governor of that place, and there I underwent another close examination respecting my damning the king, and every circumstance concerning my situation at that time, so that he might have it in his power to prevent and cross me in my greatest expectations. After he had made an end of his enquiries, he informed me that I was destined for Quebec, there to be put on board a ship of war. On hearing this I stood amazed!—At length I roused from my lethargy, and on my knees before the governor, did most earnestly solicit him to send me to my own country, and I should be happy; but he refused—saying that what I had been guilty of gave them the undoubted liberty of disposing of me as they pleased. He then sent me from his presence to feed upon my disappointments.

While I was meditating upon my penurious circumstances, Capt. David Shanks, an officer in the regiment called the Queen's Rangers, came to me and asked me how I should like a soldier's life? I replied not at all, for I had suffered too much from it already, and only wished to see home. He told me it was by no means likely that I should see home very suddenly, and that I had better enlist a soldier under him; if I would consent, he would speak to the governor, and prevent my being immediately sent off to Quebec; if I refused, to Quebec I must go—and that in a short time. I replied that the conditions were exceedingly hard, much worse than I could have expected from any christian people; especially by a people who were bound by friendship and alliance to alleviate the sufferings of unfortunate Americans. From duty I was sure I was not bound to serve them and what I already suffered at their hands was not from any demerit of mine.

However, the Captain soon convinced me that standing out would avail me nothing; it was the governor's will, not mine, that would determine the matter, and that I must be sent where the governor thought best; He gave me till night to consider upon it, and then to give him an answer. I weighed every circumstance, as well as a poor broken hearted suffering mortal could in such a situation, and determined to enlist; for peradventure an opportunity might present, which I was ready to embrace, be it sooner or later, whereby I could desert the army and go to my friends, whom I longed to see to excess.— But if I was put on board of a ship, all hopes of escape would be at an end. This my resolution I put in force immediately, by enlisting under Capt. Shanks, in the Queen's Rangers, on the 4th of June, 1794.

I was immediately sent from thence about 120 miles round the lake, to where the rest of the regiment lay. There I was sick with the ague-fits for some time, but obliged to attend exercise, that they might make me expert in the use of the firelock. I continued there until some time in August, all the while very discontented and much disheartened. As my intention was to desert from the British tyrants, the means by which to effect my flight were my constant study. My countenance plainly demonstrated my uneasiness, and doubtless the officer who enlisted me could easily guess my designs. No artifice could hide my uneasiness, for it was obvious from my discourse to the officer at the time of my enlisting, with which my conduct from day to day corresponded, that it was my intention to desert them the first favorable opportunity.

So matters went on for some time, watching and being watched, till the time arrived which I had been so long looking for. But contrary to my expectations, instead of extricating myself from those barbarous despots, I became doubly involved, and my sufferings augmented to such a degree, that my spirit came nearer deserting my body, than my body did de-

serting the tyrants ; the particulars of which I am now going to relate.

Previous to my setting off, I had frequently conversed with many of the soldiers whom I knew to be my friends, (and in the same predicament with myself,) on the subject of deserting. They were as fond of it as I was, but were afraid of the consequences. They said they were utter strangers to the way thro' the woods which we must pass ; besides it was morally impossible to avoid being taken up by the savages, who were as thick in the woods as musquitos.

At length one Samuel Soper, a lad about 19 years of age, a new recruit, and who had lately joined the regiment, appeared extremely anxious to desert ; saying he knew the way perfectly well to the American frontiers. We immediately agreed to set out the next evening, and for that purpose were to meet on the parade ground after roll-call.

Now the army was so situated, that there were two ways by which we might make our escape. As we lay on the side of the lake, we might go around the east end, by way of Kingston. That looked very tedious, for the distance was at least 400 miles, and we were in a miserable condition to undertake so long a journey through the wilderness, having no provisions to carry with us. But my companion insisted upon going that way, saying he was acquainted with many of the inhabitants ; besides he had some relations on the road. would help us to provisions, which I conceived we should be very much in want of. Notwithstanding the other way was much the nearest, yet there were insurmountable difficulties to encounter, such as a number of garrisons to pass ; and we must likewise expect to find the woods lined with savages, and of course be taken up before we could perform half our journey. I must confess I wished to avoid the red savages, having had sufficient experience of their barbarity ; not that there was much difference in morals, manners and practice. between the white savages to whom I was then a slave,

and the red savages from whom I had so lately made my escape. To avoid the fetters of both was my determination.

According to our agreement, we met upon the parade, it being about nine o'clock at night, and set off towards the town, to procure a birch canoe to carry us round the lake, supposing that would be the best way, and the least guarded. We had not left the parade many minutes before we were missed, being continually watched. The whole regiment was mustered in quest of us, and depend upon it, we were as much alarmed as they were. We durst not travel in the road, but kept about seven or eight rods distant from the shore of the lake. We had not travelled far before we discovered two parties in quest of us, one in boats, the other followed the road to town.—It being very dark, which was much in our favor, we concluded to approach nearer the shore of the lake, knowing that we stood as good a chance of discovering them as they did of discovering us; accordingly we leaped down the bank, which was almost perpendicular to the shore, and made a stand to see if we could discover any body. Immediately we discovered two persons walking towards us; we lay still as though we were inanimate. It being very dark, they did not discover us, to our great joy.

After they had passed us, we secreted ourselves among some flood-wood, for there was no chance of running without being discovered by our enemies, as they passed so near us as to come close to our heads. When all was still we ascended the bank, and made for the road again; but just as we got there, we heard somebody coming, and soon saw a guard of eight or ten men, who passed without discovering us; had we been one minute sooner, we must have been taken; but our time was not come. We returned again to the bushes, and lay there trembling till the coast seemed clear; we then rose and walked about a mile into the woods, where we lay until morning. Supposing ourselves not safe,

we went into a very thick swamp, and lay there all day. Evening being come, we very cautiously approached the town about midnight, and luckily found a bark canoe which we carried to the lake, embarked, crossed a large bay about four miles, and landed upon an island. The wind springing up and blowing fresh soon after our landing, we dared not venture any farther at that time. Next day, about ten o'clock, the wind abated; and about that time my comrade beginning to think about something to eat, was for going out into the bay to kill ducks in plain sight of where our regiment lay. I endeavored to convince him of the danger of such a proceeding, but he urged the necessity of having something to eat. I told him I thought the risk was too great; and that if he went, I would take the boat, proceed on, and leave him to abide the consequences. He then gave over, and we went immediately into the boat, making what haste we could. About noon we arrived at a large pond, and my comrade insisted on going ashore to get some provisions, saying he could not live any longer unless he obtained some; he grieved very much that I was unwilling to go ashore, and was sorry he ever set out, having a great mind to return and surrender himself up; I soon convinced him of his error, telling him that he should never leave my sight and live.

We now continued our route night and day, as often as circumstances would permit. Sometimes the wind would blow so fresh that we dared not proceed. Sometimes one thing, and sometimes another, would interfere, so that in four days we gained but seventy miles. We at length came to where there were some inhabitants, of whom we got green corn to refresh ourselves, which we really stood in need of, and which put new spirits into my comrade. On the fourth day, just at night, the wind blew exceedingly hard, so that we were obliged to run our canoe into a small creek to prevent her being dashed to pieces; and on going a few rods up the creek, we discovered

a family who had lately moved from the States, and halted there to look at the land.

Now about four days previous to our deserting, one John Brownrick who deserted from the same regiment, went down that way, and got among the inhabitants. They mistrusting that he was a deserter, sent word to the regiment that there was such a person with them ; upon which a corporal and ten men were despatched to conduct him back. They arrived there about an hour after sunset that evening, at which time they had all three got together, as ill-luck would have it, going down the lake for the purpose of embarking on board our canoe, and proceeding on our journey. Just as we were going on board, a part of the guard appeared in sight ; the remainder went round a pond which was behind us, and so encompassed us that all hopes of escaping were at an end. When we first saw them, we were instantly going on board the canoe not mistrusting who they were, nor what was their errand, when I saw a man a few rods from us, coming towards us, with his arms folded up, whom I took to be of the camp we had just passed through. I told my comrades to look around, and turning to look myself, we soon learned the truth to our sorrow ; for the person whom we first saw, coming up to us with a pistol in each hand, presented them at our breasts, saying we were his prisoners ;—he at the same time set up a loud halloo, which was answered by a number of soldiers, coming to his assistance from behind us.

Imagine our surprise at finding ourselves taken.—O, Heavens! thought I, what more have I to suffer from these merciless tyrants? it is impossible that I can endure the disappointment. But alas! there was no withstanding their ferocity—no time to think seriously. Driven to the alternative of returning or dying on the spot : there were ten against three—they had arms—we had none—the odds forbade a dispute. They threatened us with immediate death in case of resistance, bound us most inhumanly, and

dragged us up the bank of the lake. Not contented with the inhumanity of their treatment to us, at the time they captured us, they opened our wounds afresh by threats and blows. They made us lie on the ground all night, suffering exceedingly from the tightness of the cords with which they bound our hands and feet. In the morning we were most inhumanly dragged into the boat, which immediately set off for Head-Quarters. About the middle of the day, the wind blowing fresh, they were obliged to put on shore with the boat and lay there until the next day. They still kept us bound, diverting themselves with our condition, and telling us of the miseries we must expect to endure on our return to the regiment; all which made a deep impression on my mind, being well acquainted with the manners and customs of the English and Indians, and their hatred to the Americans. Indeed I had no reason to expect any thing better than what they told me I should suffer.

After lying all night on the wet sand, being all three bound fast together, we were the next morning dragged into the boat as before, and again set out for the regiment. We had not gone far before the wind died away, that we were obliged to take to our bars.— There being but five of them that went with us in the boat, they wanted some of our assistance in rowing, and proposed to liberate us, provided we would row. Thinking it would be much easier, than to lay there bound in the manner we were, we agreed to the proposal; they unbound us, and we applied ourselves smartly to the oars. We rowed about three miles, our minds all the while engaged in forming plans to prevent our being carried back to the regiment. We at length slightly made signs to rise against the boat's crew, and take the boat to ourselves. We were disadvantageously situated in the boat to begin the attack, John Brownick rowed with the after, Samuel Soper the middle, and myself the forward oar in the boat. The sail being betwixt me and my coadjutors, prevented me from observing the critical

moment when the mutiny began. All the fire-arms were in the bow of the boat, where I was, except one musket, which lay close to Brownrick. When the moment arrived which Brownrick conceived to be the most favorable for our purpose, he took the gun that lay by him, and presented it to the breast of the man who steered the boat, threatening him with instant death in case of resistance from him or any other man of the company. Brownrick then snapped the gun at him, but it missed fire, which circumstance so emboldened our enemies that they commenced a smart defence ; one of them making a stroke at Brownrick with his oar, so timely, and so well directed, that he was knocked down senseless and lay in that condition for some time, which prevented his assisting us any more. The sail had prevented my seeing Brownrick's motions ; his threats to the man at the helm, the snapping of the gun, and the sound of the paddle on his head, were almost instantaneous, following each other in quick succession, and were the first notice I had of the matter. I immediately flew to the arms in order to secure them, and called to Soper to exert himself in support of our cause.—Soper thinking the combat unequal, five against two, stepped into the bow of the boat, and took up a pistol which lay there. One of the boat's crew then advanced towards me, to prevent my using the gun I had taken in my hands ; as soon as he came within my reach, I struck him on the head with the breech of my gun, which knocked him down ; the blow fractured his skull, and he lay for some time apparently lifeless. As I was a going to repeat the experiment on my next opposer, I was pushed down in the bottom of the boat by a man standing behind me, which prevented my stroke ; and before I could rise again, I was struck over the head with the barrel of the gun which I broke when I knocked down the man I first attacked. Soper cocked his pistol, and presented it at the head of my antagonist, but instead of firing the pistol, as he ought to have done, he cried out for

mercy in the most moving terms, declaring that he had no hand in the mutiny, leaving me to support the cause alone against four rugged opposers.—Knowing that farther opposition would be useless, I submitted myself a prisoner.

The boat's crew being exceedingly exasperated against me, to satiate their revenge, struck me on the head most furiously with the pistol, which effectually put an end to all resistance on my part. After I came a little to myself, they ordered me to sit down in the bottom of the boat, which I did with great submission. They repeated the strokes on my head with the pistol, till I was prostrated in the bottom of the boat; they jumped on my breast, and threatened me with their malignance, till Soper and Brownrick were bound fast. They then bound me most inhumanly, and afterwards bound us all three together, and threw us into the bottom of the boat, in about four inches of water. We lay in that condition from seven o'clock in the morning, till we arrived where the regiment was, which was ten o'clock in the evening.

All this time we spent in silent meditation: hardly one word escape us, as we had nothing of a very consolatory nature to say to each other. For my own part I wished that death would interfere, & foreclose the expected event: as living in such misery was equal to the ignominious death we expected shortly to suffer. Either of the crimes we had been guilty of, demanded our lives. From friendship we had nothing to expect; money we had none; the result must therefore be death. On our arrival at our place of destination, some parts of the boat's crew went on shore, and gave the officers an account of what had transpired from the time of their departure in search of us, to their return. They immediately sent a guard of a corporal and five men to take charge of us, who dragged us from the boat to the shore as they would have done, had we been dead, shewing us no mercy. We lay all night under guard, on the cold ground, wet to the skin, without any thing to eat or

drink. In the morning we were unbound, escorted from thence by a strong guard to a loathsome prison, and ironed hand and foot. We begged for some provisions, but they told us we deserved none ; and when we urged the necessity of having some, saying we must eat or starve, we were answered that starving was just what we merited, and that our lives would soon make atonement for our crimes. However, not long after, we drew the prisoner's allowance, bread and water, and that very sparingly dealt out to us. Poor suffering mortals, thought I, thus entangled and no hopes of an escape ; no friend to pity or speak one consoling word to us ; but hundreds on the other hand, echoing to us death and ignominy. We were kept in irons fifteen days, and then sent down to Niagara for trial. On our arrival at that place, a court martial was summoned, before whom we were brought, and our crimes read to us, which were desertion and mutiny. Brownrick being an old soldier and an old offender, knew the martial law better than I did, and objected to our accusations ; saying it was not consonant to law, to try a soldier for two crimes of equal magnitude, at and one the same time. The chairman consulted the rest of the court martial on the subject, and at length agreed to expunge one of the charges exhibited against us. Mutiny was accordingly erased from the black account. We were then ordered back to the guard house, and the court proceeded in the business till they had completed it. We were then ordered into court to hear sentence was read, which was that Brownrick and myself were next day to receive a thousand lashes each, Soper but eight hundred, in consequence of his tender years ; which favor towards Soper I thought was quite unnecessary, expecting that neither of us would be able to survive more than five or six hundred lashes : and what they did to us after we were dead was of no consequence.

The next day the regiment received orders to parade at one o'clock in the afternoon. Soper all this

while was in the greatest agony imaginable, crying and begging for mercy, wringing his hands, pleading that his tender years and inexperience ought to exempt him from punishment, and alleging that I was the sole cause of his deserting, by which means he had incurred the displeasure of the officers, whom he always loved, and subjected himself to an infamous punishment. The officers considering his story very plausible, and knowing that when I enlisted that it was much against my inclination, seemed inclined to believe all Soper said against me. I reminded the officers that I was American born ; that it was impossible for me to forget my country and my parents ; that I was not to blame for coming among them, fortune had directed me there ; and had fortune favored my escape, I should have been rid of their persecutions, which was worth trying for. I owned that I had enlisted, but not voluntarily ; it was choosing the least of two evils. The officers heard what they pleased of my harangue, paying but little attention during the whole of it.

At one o'clock the regiment paraded, agreeably to orders, and we were brought forth to receive our punishment. Brownrick being the eldest of the three, was ordered to be flogged first. He was accordingly tied up, received his punishment, and made out to live through it. My turn came next. I bade the world and all my friends adieu, not having the least expectation to survive the awful trial. They tied me up and gave me five hundred lashes. The Doctor standing by, ordered me to be released, telling them that I could not endure any more at that time. I was accordingly taken down but could not stand.— They informed me that on a future day, when I should be able, I must expect to receive the remainder of my allotted punishment. Soper, who had stood by and seen the punishment inflicted upon us, almost stupefied with grief, expected to be instantly bound with the cords from which I had just been released, and receive the reward of his desertion ; but his cadaver-

ous appearance so moved the tender feelings of the officers, that upon his humbly begging pardon upon his bended knees, and solemnly promising strict obedience for the future, they accordingly pardoned him.

Brownrick and myself were then carried to the hospital, and put under the Doctor's care, there to remain till I should either die or recover. I must confess I prayed for death, thinking that it could be at no great distance, and hoping that it would come like a friend to relieve me from pain. The Doctor attended us very assiduously, and a few hours after the first dressing of my back. I began to be sensible of what had happened to me; for on cleansing my wounds, and removing the conglutated blood and mangled flesh (being so cut to pieces, that my bowels were almost visible to the naked eye) I felt the most excruciating pains, which were increased by an inflammation that began to prevail, in spite of all the Doctor's efforts to prevent it. I continued in this situation about nine days, all of which time I lay on my face, without a moment's sleep. My wounded back then began a gentle suppuration, the pain and inflammation moderated, and the Doctor began to be encouraged, telling me with a smile that he believed I might recover; which was more than he expected two days before, as he expected that the inflammation would terminate in a gangrene. At first I was much elevated, but then considering that I had received but half my punishment, and that returning health would bring with it the other half, my spirits were again depressed. But God, whose wisdom exceeds all wisdom, and whose ways are past finding out, did through his infinite mercy support me in the hour of my afflictions, and by his mighty power extricate me from impending misery, which none else could have done. Blessed be his name.

About three weeks after, the inflammation began to abate; pieces of flesh as large as an egg peeled off my back in many places; after which my wounds be-

gan to heal, so that in a short time I was able to walk without much difficulty.

About three months after, the regiment had orders to remove to Toronto, being several days journey, which was to be performed by water ; and on the day appointed for the embarkation, the troops went on board the boats, about sixteen in each boat, and I was on board with them. My back was so sore that I could bear no clothing on me, except a shirt and a blanket, which I wrapped round my shoulders. Soon after we set sail for Toronto, a cold storm of wind and rain came on ; and notwithstanding my situation, I was obliged to endure it with no more covering than my blanket, and that a poor one. The boats crew being very peevish, paid no more attention to me than they would have done had I been as rugged as one of them ; so that from their inhumanity, and the inclemency of the weather, I suffered amazingly. On our arrival at Toronto, I was ordered on shore, and from thence to the guard house, where I was visited by the Doctor, till such time as my back was almost well, being four months from the time I was punished. Soon after the Doctor had dismissed me, I was informed that the time was drawing nigh when I was to receive the remainder of my punishment, and desired to prepare myself to receive it. I told them that I could not undergo the operation and live ; they told me that was my look-out, and left me to consider of it. After a short pause, I came to the resolution of murdering myself, preferring an instant death to a lingering one ; but upon a second thought, my senses revolted, fearing the awful consequences of appearing before an offended Deity with the crime of self murder to answer for. In the mean time, while I was meditating on my present circumstances, I was notified to make myself ready against the next day, to receive the remainder of my punishment. O ! my dear friends and countrymen think on my deplorable circumstances. Father of mercies, lend me your aid to endure what is inflicted upon me, and sanctify it to my ever-

lasting good. After giving vent to a flood of tears, my convulsed breast became more resigned to my fate, supposing my time to be short in this transitory world, and a life of endless duration soon to commence. So great were my expectations for changing this world for a better, that I could have been willing to taste instantly the bitter cup of death, and to resign my poor afflicted soul into the hands of God who gave it me, and my body to the dust, from whence it was taken. All thoughts of suicide vanished, and I became more resigned to my fate; I only wished for presence of mind, fortitude and perseverance, till I had finished my course. The time at length arrived for me to prove my resolution; the regiment paraded, and a guard came to escort me to the place of punishment; after I came there, I thought it my duty to plead with the officer to spare my life, which he did. The officer seemed to hearken to my prayer, and examined me with great circumspection, respecting my damning the King, and what were my motives in doing it, and the reason why I deserted, and after I was taken, how I dared to have a recourse to mutiny; and farther who were my accomplices, I informed him with great submission, saying, I was as much to blame as either of the others, and no more, notwithstanding Soper's evidence against me; for we would have all gone clear if we could, which was evident from our rising against the boat's crew, notwithstanding our inferiority in numbers: but what was done could not be re-called, and if I could be forgiven, I would in future behave myself in all respects as a good and faithful soldier. Upon the reception of my confession, the officer put his hand into his pocket, and took out my pardon, which was from the Governor, and read it to me, which so moved my feelings of gratitude to God, in mercy to me, that I behaved more like an idiot than a man of sense. I hopped and skipped about the circle of soldiers that had encompassed me for punishment, thanking heaven for my kind deliverance from the immediate jaws of death.

The officers appeared not a little pleased, supposing they had conquered me with judgment mingled with mercy. I was then ordered to join the regiment, accordingly I did, and there I soon learned the reason of the abatement of the remainder of my punishment. It was Soper's conduct that gave rise to it; for he at the time of our trial, accused me of being the sole cause of his desertion, and consequently promoted the mutiny, to which he declared he was not an accessory, and the part which he acted was not on account of the circumstances of the case in which he was so suddenly involved, and in evidence of the turpitude, he said he laid hands on no person, and the taking up the pistol and presenting it as he did, was done through confusion of mind, witnessing that at the instant in which he presented the pistol at the soldier's head, he cried out for mercy, and declared himself innocent of the rising; and on these circumstances, at the time when I received my punishment, Soper received his pardon, and orders to join the regiment, which he did immediately. A short time after, this honest, innocent Soper, deserted them; they pursued him, but to no purpose; he effected his escape; a happy circumstance for me, for the officers were by that convinced Soper was an imposter, and that I was in a great measure right in what I related to them of his conduct, at the time we deserted together, and afterwards; therefore discharged me from the remainder of my intended punishment. My captain was humane, and I suppose a good advocate in my favor; he never seemed to take any delight in the punishment of a soldier, nor I believed ever encouraged the soldiers in complaining of one another, but would chide them smartly when they came to him with complaints, telling them that half to the complainant was as just, where punishment was to be inflicted, as it was when interest was to be accumulated by it; but I must confess the officers had it not in their power to do justice to the soldiers at all times, for it was impossible for them to know the right of

the case, the soldiers were so combined together. I believe there scarcely ever was a more vicious set of mortals collected from the four corners of the globe: they consisted of refugee. English, Scotch, Irish, Dutch and American cowboys, except some poor American captives which were purchased of the Indians, and by some artful means forced into their army. Indeed an honest soldier could as well live in the fire as to live with them; for if he would not do as they would have him, they would tell him they could easily put him out of their way. They frequently sent off parties in boats on duty, to some place where they wanted provisions collected, or forage, with an orderly officer to oversee them; and if the officer was not quite agreeable to them when on shore, they would purposely knock him overboard, row off, and leave him to drown; and when they returned the officer would inquire into the matter, but to no purpose; for the boat's crew would swear, one and all, that the deceased fell overboard by mere accident, and the circumstances were such at that present time, that it was out of their power to save him; and matters were obliged to pass off.

After I had been in the regiment a few weeks, and had recovered my strength in some measure, one day my captain came to me, and asked me if I should like to go a little distance from the army, and go to work clearing land. I told him it would be perfectly agreeable, if I could have company; he bade me choose one to go with me; accordingly I chose one Thomas Kenning, a native of Old Hartford, and off we set, built us a hut according to our captain's directions, and went to work. Now I was considerably indebted to my captain, for when I was sick he provided me with a nurse, and would advance money for me when I wanted necessaries; and gratitude forbade my not serving him. But after we had labored there till the ensuing April, we concluded we had done sufficient to discharge our arrearages therefore, under no obligation to king or captain; and if we

staid any longer, we should work no more money into our pockets, and concluded to set off the first good opportunity; accordingly we packed up our duds, and about three day's provisions that we had in camp with us, and on the 27th day of April, at evening, we set off, hope and fear constantly alternating, watching and praying for our personals safety, and marched on to the shore to find a canoe, for by water we must go, and the Indians must find us a canoe. After we came to the shore, we travelled on about two miles, and found a canoe; but the Indians were asleep hard by it. Indeed so near were they, we thought it impracticable to steal it; but we could find no other, and something must immediately be done, as we soon should be missed, and the Indians likely would awake—we agreed to try our skill, went softly as possible to the canoe, took it up, and returned back undiscovered, then launched it into the lake, got into it, and paddled off with all possible speed round the lake, and by daylight we were sixteen miles from the regiment; then we went on shore, and carried our canoe into the bushes, and there we lay concealed until twelve o'clock, and observing nothing moving that would molest us, we set off, and with our paddles almost made our little birch canoe fly; we watched and trembled as we proceeded, keeping close in with the shore, that in case we were chased by boats, we might quit oars, and fly to the woods. After we had got about three miles upon our second set out, we discovered a large sail boat making after us; we immediately made for the shore, up with our canoe, and retreated to the woods: but the boat passed without discovering us, and made round a point of land; then we had fears that they had discovered us, and were going about three miles round, and then to come upon our backs, and cut us off from the woods. We instantly hid our canoe, took up our packs, and marched into the woods, about one mile, there deposited our packs in a thicket of bushes, and went to see if we could discover any thing more of the boat,

and whether they had landed or not ; and when we came where we expected they had landed, we saw them at a good distance, going on their way ; then our fears abated, and we returned to our packs, and from thence to our boat, and carried our boat to the water's edge, in order to proceed on ; but soon discovering a boat with Indians a small distance ahead of us, we nimbly retired to the bushes, and were not discovered by them. We concluded not to venture round that point of land, but to carry the canoe across it, being about three miles to the lake ; accordingly we did so, launched our canoe and set off for the opposite shore ; it had got to be the dusk of the evening, but we supposed we could plainly see the opposite shore, and after we had paddled till the middle of the night, we could not discern any land at all, the wind rising, and soon blew most violently, raising an awful swell, the agitated lake tossing us upon the surface of the water, then down again into the trough of the sea ; the next sea would meet us and raise us again, so that we would rise and fall at each alternate swell nearly ten feet, and expected every moment to be swallowed up by the tide. Our boat would oftentimes take in two or three gallons of water, which we instantly baled out with our canteen, which we had fitted for that purpose, by taking out one of the heads, previous to our attempting to cross. In this awful predicament we remained till about an hour before daylight, when we arrived at the shore, and attempted landing, but met much difficulty in performing the task ; the swells ran high, and when I stepped from the canoe I held her fast by one hand ; but being chilled with the cold and water, having sat waistband high in the latter from midnight I had lost the use of my legs, and the swell, when returning from the shore would carry me with it ten or twelve feet back into the lake, and when it returned, would drive me with the canoe on the shore again ; at length I braced myself, and held her till the swell had gone out, and then instantly dragged her out of the reach of the

swells, and then my comrade got out, but could not stand. I fell to chafing him till he began to be warm, and by that time the day began to dawn, which warned us to retire into the woods for our personal safety. We took up our canoe and carried it into the bushes, and hid it, then went on ourselves till we were far enough from the shore to be out of danger, and then struck a fire, stripped off our wet clothes, dried them, warmed ourselves, eat a few mouthfuls of our provisions, and were not a little pleased to think we had so fortunately escaped thus far from the regiment. After we had sufficiently dried our clothing, and rested our weary limbs, we concluded to return to our canoe, carry it to the shore and proceed; for we had no time to spare; but to be too hasty in our march would be equally dangerous, and we hardly knew when we were too fast or too slow; for our escape depended much on a well timed march.—When we came to the shore, we found the wind had much abated; in a short time it was calm, and the agitated lake much quieted. To our great surprise we found the lake much broader where we crossed the proceeding night than we expected, for we could not discern the opposite shore from which we came, and afterwards learned it was 24 miles across. We again set off, keeping close in with the land, and went about three miles; then went on shore, the wind again blew fresh, which prevented our going any further till it moderated; we left our canoe by the shore side, for there was a small village in sight of us, and the land cleared for some distance round it, and if we had carried our boat with us, we should have been discovered. We went to the woods and tarried till the next night, undiscovered by any of the inhabitants; then we returned to our canoe, and found it was beat to pieces by the swells. Now we were in a sad predicament, and determined to retire about ten miles to a neighboring wood, which we did, undiscovered, and placed ourselves in a thicket of brush; there we gave ourselves full liberty to speak, think

and consult freely on our circumstances ; we had not so much to fear from Indians as we had before, as we were out of their course, besides, that we had passed the most formidable part of them ; the white people were now most to be feared by us ; at length we agreed to follow the lake till we arrived at Niagara, and accordingly set off, and travelled for five days and a half ; but meeting with large ponds and impassable swamps, that we were obliged to go round, and which led us about ten miles from the lake, which in some measure lost us, concluded we had gone far enough ; accordingly shaped our course for the head of the lake, and after we had travelled about ten miles, we arrived at the lake, about eight miles below where we expected ; then retired again into the woods, and set ourselves down to rest, in a place where we were secure from all but strolling parties of English and Indians ; the Indians were what we most feared, for they always had a large dog with them, and their dogs would be as likely to find us, as to find game, and would not leave us when found, sooner than they would leave a buck. We continued there until dark, interrupted by nothing in reality, though imagination would rouse us ; then we marched on very cautiously to the head of the lake, to Niagara, and at a distance from the fort, viewed it, seeing nothing stirring to molest us ; our being well acquainted with that place gave us some advantage in securing ourselves ; we knew their customs, their travels by night and day, and governed ourselves accordingly. We agreed to take the river Niagara, where it empties into lake Ontario at Fort Niagara, and follow it, to see if we could not find an Indian canoe to pass the river ; we travelled about six or eight miles, but found nothing to help ourselves ; then we returned within sight of the garrison, and observed nothing stirring that would harm us ; we shaped our course for the Genesee country, and travelled on till daylight began to dawn ; we then retired to a thicket of brush at some distance from the road, and

there lay waiting the approach of night with great impatience, our provisions being almost spent, and no means in our power to recruit them, and also exceedingly fatigued with our journey, and weakened for want of the common comforts of life; but the magnitude of our object supplied the place of provisions, and the hopes of our future enjoyments cancelled the past and present hours of adversity. Notwithstanding, our case was urgent, and there was no time to be lost; thus urged on to improve industriously every minute of our time, for we must in case we did not soon complete our undertaking, perish with hunger, or fall a sacrifice to British barbarity.

About twenty-one miles from Niagara, there was a garrison kept by the English, called Chippawa (an Indian name) by which we must pass, and from that at the distance of about eighteen miles another garrison, being Fort Erie, the river Niagara passing betwixt that, and the Genesee country, which could be crossed no other way than in ferry boats; so that we had nearly forty miles then to travel before we could arrive at the Genesee country; however, we encouraged each other, and in the dusk of the evening set out with a considerable share of fortitude, and a determined resolution to persevere. The inhabitants being very thick, we were obliged to keep the woods as much as possible; thus we travelled on till we came to the Chippawa garrison; thus we were obliged to take the road, travelling on till at length we met five or six men standing in the road; coming up to them, they accosted us, how do you do, gentlemen? We answered them as politely as possible, and without any visible concern; they asked us where we were bound; I answered, to Detroit. Whither do you come from? I answered from the States. What parts? I answered, Schenectady. One of them informed me he came from there not long since, and did I know any of the people of that place? I answered him that I made no particular acquaintance with any person, as my stay there was very short; for

soon after my arrival, I took boat and came directly to Detroit; and to prevent any farther inquiry, I bade them all good night, and passed on. We had not got far before we met three more, who examined us a little. I answered them and moved on, being considerably alarmed expected to be taken up, or that an attempt would be made to take us up, which would be nearly as fatal; but we met with no more interruption till we came near the garrison; then we had to seek for the bridge, which was not far from us; we went on with much caution; at length we discovered the bridge, a centinel placed not far from it, and on the left side of the road, at a small distance, was the garrison; on the right stood a large store-house; we made for the back side of it, and got there unbeknown to the centinel, and when he walked from us we could creep along, and when he came towards us, we lay still, till at length we got on the bridge; then we were discovered, and ran with all speed across the bridge, betaking ourselves to the woods, and travelling about two miles, and there secreted ourselves in a thicket of brush rejoicing at our good fortune in making our escape thus far. We took a short nap now and then, till night coming on, we set off following the woods not far distant from the road that led to Fort Erie, till we arrived at the river Niagara, near the fort. We searched very closely for a boat to cross the river, but could find none; then we set off down the Niagara, and travelled about six miles, and coming to Col. Powell's near the river side, we found a large boat which would have carried a dozen or 15 men. We immediately went on board, and set off from the shore; but meeting some ice, we drifted a little way, and landed upon an island; then one of us went on shore, taking hold of the boat's painter, the other in the boat, with an oar kept her off from the shore, and dragged the boat round the island; then set off again, and arrived on shore about two hours before daylight, and made our boat fast then retired to the woods, and sat down secure-

ly. and took from our pockets all the provisions we had left, which was only about two ounces of bread a piece ; we ate it ; and had eighty miles to travel before we could arrive at the Genesee Settlement ; but we were much encouraged. not doubting but we should soon arrive among our friends and relations. We again set out. and travelled till we came to a foot path that led from Fort Erie to the Genesee ; and for fear of meeting with Indians. we retired some distance from the path, and lay there until about one the next morning ; the moon rising. we steered by that, and travelled till daylight, then retired as before ; and so lying by in the day, and travelling by night, in two days we arrived at the Genesee, after a tedious travel of ten days in the woods, without any thing to cover us but the heavens, and only three day's provision.

We set out on our journey the twenty-seventh of April, and arrived on the seventh of May, in the year 1795. where we were cordially received by the inhabitants. and most kindly treated.

Perhaps my readers may be desirous to know who my comrade was that came with me, and the place of his abode ; his name was Thomas Kenning, a native of Old Hartford. who, being taken by the Indians not long after I was, carried to the Maumee town, from which place I had but a short time before deserted. The Indians not fancying him, for he did not understand business very well. sold him to an Indian trader for five pounds ; the Indian trader sent him to Detroit, to labor, thereby to redeem himself, and it was there I got acquainted with him. Being very intimate, we kept together ; and after I had enlisted, to continue in company he also enlisted ; and after taking the oath of allegiance we each received our bounty, which was ten guineas. So that from the time of our acquaintance to the present day. is something more than two years and a half. He being a shoemaker, went immediately to work, after our arrival at Genesee ; and after I had recovered in some measure from the fatigues which I underwent on our

journey, and from the bad state of health which I was in, went to work to get me some clothing and money to bear my expenses home. What I earned, and what the inhabitants kindly bestowed upon me, bro't me safe to Rehoboth, on the first of October, 1795.

I omitted in the first part of this journal, to finish the account of my friend, Mr. Smith, who ransomed me from the Indians. After I was put in prison for damning the king. I was indebted to Mr. Smith, and all probability of his recovering any more of me, was at an end, he expected me to be hanged : but it proved more favorable to me, than he or I expected ; some time after I had enlisted, we happened to meet and he seemed very glad that my life was spared ; and after some talk, he asked me if I was willing to make a settlement with him ; accordingly we settled accounts and found a balance due to him of something more than fifteen dollars ; he kindly asked me if could let him have a small part of it, without much injuring myself. I told him I felt a pleasure in helping him, and went directly to a friend that kept my money that I had taken for my bounty, and gave him his pay to a farthing, which pleased him well ; he then wished me well, and we parted, and I never saw him afterwards ; for soon after the Indians went to fight General Wayne's army, and a great number of the first characters in Detroit dressed themselves in disguise, and went with them, to encourage them ; and in that action my friend Mr. Smith, was killed, with many other white people of that place.

Morris Doyle, (who left the Indians at the same, and who accompanied me, till we quit the canoe,) being an old countryman, and not used to the woods, could make no hand in travelling in the night ; he soon lost sight of me, returned to the boat, and embarked for he knew not where, but kept on till he arrived at an island in the fork of Glaze River, and there went on shore, supposing he had made the main land ; and set his canoe adrift ; but after daylight he too late discovered his mistake ; for he was so com-

pletely encompassed with water, that he could not get off, without the Indians come & carried him. He walked round the island, to see if any body appeared, so that he might go off; and about twelve o'clock he observed an Indian coming directly to the island, to hunt; when the Indian was out of sight. Doyle took his canoe and made his escape from the Island to the shore of the river; then making the best of his way down the river five or six miles, but being without provisions, he called at an Indian camp. The Indians at the camp having heard that Doyle had escaped from the Indians up the river, took him into safe keeping, and sent word that he was in their possession. Upon this, they immediately came and took Doyle into custody, and were about to put him to death, when there happened to be an Indian trader present, by the name of Robert Wilson, who bought Doyle for two half joes and sent him into Detroit. I afterwards saw him at that place, and labored with him a number of days; but having gone out with a party of the King's Surveyors, he broke his leg and died in the woods.



Affidavit.

STATE OF NEW-YORK, { ss.
 Erie County, }

I, MATTHEW BUNN, *the author of the above Narrative, am duly sworn, and testify, that the above Narrative is a true statement of the Life and Adventures of the above named Matthew Bunn, and that I am the identical person above named in this Book, and who subscribes his hand and name hereunto.*

MATTHEW BUNN.

Sworn and subscribed before me, this 30th day of
 October, 1826.

MILLERD FILLMORE.

Com'r &c. for Erie County.

PATRIOTIC SONG.

ST. CLAIR'S DEFEAT—BY M. BUNN.



NOVEMBER the fourth, in the year ninety-one,
We had a sore engagement near to Fort Jefferson ;
St. Clair was our commander, which may remembered be,
Since we have lost nine hundred men in the western territory.

At Lexington and Quebec, where many a hero fell,
And likewise at Long-Island, as I the truth can tell,
For such a horrid carnage my eyes they never see,
As happened on the plains near the river St. Mary.

Our militia were attacked just as the day did break,
But soon were overpowered and forced to retreat ;
Then they killed Capt. Oldham, Lament and Briggs likewise,
Such horrid shouts of the savages that sounded thro' the skies.

Young Major Butler was wounded the very second fire,
Whose manly breast did swell with rage, and forced to retire:
Like one distracted he appeared, and thus exclaimed he,—
“ Those fiends of hell shall win the field, or revenged I will be.

We had not long engaged when General Butler fell,
He cries, “ my boys, I am wounded, pray take me off the field;
My God! he cries, what shall we do, we're murder'd every man,
Go charge my valient heroes, and beat them—if you can.”

He turned his back against a tree & there resigned his breath'
And like a valiant hero, sunk in the arms of death :
Ten thousand seraphs did await, his spirit to convey,
And through the bright ethereal they swiftly bent their way.

We made a charge, and gained the ground, which did our
fears abate,

But soon were overpowered, and forced to retreat,
They took from us our cannon, which grieved our hearts full
sore,

Such horrid shouts of triumph like hell-hounds they did roar.

We made a charge and gained our guns, we fought like hearts
of steel,

Till many a brave American lay slaughtered o'er the field,
Then they killed Major Ferguson, which caused his men to
cry,

Don't be dismayed, says Capt. Ford, we fight until we die.

These words he had scarce uttered, when he received a ball,
And likewise our Lieutenant Spear down by his side did fall,
Stand by your guns, says gallant Ford, for I am not yet slain,
I will lay me down and bleed a while, and rise & fight again.

Says Major Gibson to his men, my boys be not dismayed,
I am sure the Pennsylvanians they never were afraid.
Ten thousand deaths I'd rather die, than they should win the
field,

Soon he received a fatal ball, which caused him for to yield.

Our cannon balls were all soon spent, our artillery men were
slain,

Our musketry and riflemen a firing did sustain,
Three hours or more we fought them there, and then were
forced to yield,

Whilst three hundred bloody warriors stood hovering round
the field.

Says Major Clark, my heroes bold we can no longer stand,
Therefore we will form in order the best way that we can.
The word retreat sounded around, which raised a hue & cry,
Then helter skelter through the the woods, like lost sheep
we did fly.

We left our wounded on the field, O heavens! what a stroke,
Some of their thighs were shattered, and some their arms
were broke ;

With tomahawks and scalping knives, they robbed them of
their breath,

In fiery flames of torment then tortured them to death.

To mention my brave officers is what I mean to do,
No sons of mars ne'er fought more bold, or with more cour-
age true ;

To Captain Bradford I belong, of the artillery,
He fell that day among the slain, and a valliant man was he.

There is Kelly and young Anderson, whose names shall be
revered ;

They fought like brave Americans, but death was their
reward.

Full twenty paces in the front they of their men did go,
Their enemy soon marked them out and proved their over-
throw

There is Purdy and young Bates, subalterns of great power,
So boldly they led on their men, three-quarters of an hour,
Till they were slain upon the field, like saints resigned
were they,

There Bates smiling said, fight on, while bleeding thus he lay.

Young Major Dark received a ball close by his father's side,
These feeble hands shall be revenged on my son's death he
cried,

He quickly drew his sword in hand, and through the ranks
he flew,

And like a brave Virginian the savage there he slew.

Of all the men that fell that day, young Major Hart was best;
One pleasing consolation, his soul has gone to rest,
No blooming chief was there to frown, alas, his glass is run,
He has gone to future happiness, and dwells beyond the sun.

The day before our battle fifteen hundred men we had,
But our old gouty general had used us very bad,
He whip't, and hung, and starved his men, in barbarous
cruelty,

Thus negro like he did behave, on the western territory.

Come all you brave Americans, lament the loss with me,
It was by bad mismanagement, as you may plainly see,
This is the ending of my song, excuse me if you please,
St. Clair's Defeat it may be called, so praise it at your ease.



Narrative of Matthew Bunn, 1828

Received: The book was covered with kraft paper wrapper, and stab sewn through the spine margin of the text.

Treatment: The spine folds of the signature were guarded with Jap. paper and rice starch paste. Adhesive used at the spine was a 50/50 mix of Jade 403 and methyl cellulose.

O. P.-C.

1983

Deacidified using the Bookkeeper process.
Neutralizing agent: Magnesium Oxide
Treatment Date: Jan. 2003

Preservation Technologies

A WORLD LEADER IN PAPER PRESERVATION
111 Thomson Park Drive
Cranberry Township, PA 16066
(724) 779-2111

